

REPORT TO THE LESIGLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 345 of 2004
Section 906 (1,2)
Medical Services Transportation

The Department of Corrections has examined the data to determine where abuse of health care delivery services occurs and developed strategies to address these concerns. As a result, the Department has taken several new steps to reduce the number of unnecessary or reasonably avoidable off-site visits to medical care facilities. An on-call Medical Service Provider (MSP) has been added to one large complex to cover medical emergencies that take place during off-hours or when medical staff are not present at the facilities. This has helped to reduce the number of transportation runs to the emergency room at the local hospital. We are also in the process of implementing a similar system in another complex which is expected to be in place this spring. The Department is also looking at another two other complexes to determine if further savings can be achieved by implementing similar systems there.

The Department has also greatly expanded its video conferencing and telemed conferencing capabilities. Now when prisoners are complaining of medical problems, they can be seen by an MSP at the Duane L. Waters Hospital (DWH) emergency room via video conferencing before determining the need for an off-site emergency run. A full-time MSP is always available at DWH, and all correctional facilities now contact them if no medical staff are available at their own site for emergency medical situations. We have also implemented telemedicine clinics for HIV and Hepatitis C patients throughout the system which greatly reduces the need for transfers of these patients.

The Department has also further refined its process to collect funds from prisoners who cause their own medical emergency care due to self-mutilation. Cost of these emergency visits and subsequent care are collectable under law and staff have refined the documentation process necessary to collect these funds. Overall, the Department continues to explore methods of reducing off-site medical care through many review processes.